

The Resurrection in God's Redemptive Plan

He Rose Again

The Triumph of the Tomb

1 Corinthians 15:4

Earlier this morning we considered what the resurrection of Jesus Christ began.

We saw that He is the firstfruits — that is, His resurrection was the beginning of a harvest that is still to come.

We saw that because He lives, all who belong to Him will live also.

But before there could be a harvest, there had to be a resurrection. Before there could be a promise, there had to be a victory.

In the verse before us we find the foundation of the gospel itself — “that he rose again...”

Everything we have said about hope, about resurrection, about eternal life and joy beyond the grave all stand or fall on this one truth: “He rose again.”

As we look at this statement — “he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...” — we are not just asking *what happened*. We are asking: What does the empty tomb mean?

What did God declare when He raised His Son from the dead?

What was accomplished when Christ left the tomb?

The truth we must see this morning is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the triumph that secures everything the cross accomplished.

I. THE CERTAINTY OF THE RESURRECTION

“...and that he rose again...”

A. A declared fact

1. The Bible doesn't present the resurrection as a theory to consider, or something that may have happened — it presents it as a fact to be received.
2. This is language of certainty. Our faith rests on a historical event.
3. If the resurrection is not true, the gospel is not true (v. 14).

B. A bodily resurrection

1. He did not rise figuratively for symbolic purposes — He rose physically.
2. The tomb was empty, the body was gone, and the same Jesus who died and laid in the tomb was alive again.

Luke 24:39

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

C. A verified reality

The text before us goes on to list eyewitnesses (vv. 5-8), showing the resurrection was visible and witnessed.

Acts 1:3

³ To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom

| of God:

D. A defining doctrine

Remove the resurrection and there is no victory over death; there is no assurance of justification for sin; there is no hope beyond the grave (v. 17).

E. A living Savior

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1. This means we do not follow a dead teacher as many religions in the world do — we belong to a living Savior.
2. Because He lives, everything that was promised is certain.

II. THE CONFIRMATION BY THE SCRIPTURES

The Apostle didn't stop with the fact that Christ rose. He added a very critical point: "the third day according to the Scriptures."

A. It was a planned event — "according to the Scriptures"

This means it was not unexpected or accidental or some sort of reaction to the cross. It was foreknown, foretold, and purposed by God.

Acts 2:23–24

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: ²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it

was not possible that he should be holden of it.

B. It followed a prophetic pattern

While the Old Testament doesn't always state the resurrection in one single, specific sentence, it reveals it through clear prophetic testimony and consistent patterns or types.

1. Direct prophetic statement — Psalm 16:10

Psalm 16:10

¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

a) Peter applies this directly to Christ:

Acts 2:31

³¹ He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

b) The meaning of this prophecy as recounted by Peter is that Christ would truly die, but His body would not remain in the grave nor would corruption set in.

2. Redemptive necessity — Isaiah 53:10-11

Isaiah 53:10

¹⁰ ... when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed...

Isaiah 53:11

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied...

a) If Christ dies as an offering and then *sees* the result, then He must be alive after His death.

b) The resurrection is implied as a necessity of the

atonement.

3. Typological picture — Jonah 1:17

Jonah 1:17

¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

a) Jesus connected this prophecy with Himself.

Matthew 12:40

⁴⁰ For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

b) The account of Jonah in the Bible isn't just history — it is a God-given picture of resurrection.

C. It carried precise timing — “The third day”

1. Throughout Scripture, the “third day” is often associated with:

a) Deliverance (Genesis 22:4 — Abraham and Isaac)

Genesis 22:4

⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

b) Revelation (Exodus 19:11 — God appearing at Sinai)

Exodus 19:11

¹¹ And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

c) Restoration (Hosea 6:2)

Hosea 6:2

² After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

2. The third day becomes a pattern of divine intervention and life.

D. It fulfilled a unified testimony of Scripture

The entire Bible moves toward this moment: the Law anticipates it; the prophets point to it; and the types picture it.

Luke 24:27

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

E. Our faith rests on the clear foundation of Scripture

Because the resurrection is “according to the Scriptures,” our faith is grounded in the revealed Word of God.

III. THE CONFIRMATION OF REDEMPTION

A. The cross accomplished redemption

1. As we brought out last week, Christ did not begin a work at the cross — He finished it (John 19:30; Heb. 10:12).
2. At Calvary, sin was atoned for, the price was paid, and the sacrifice was complete.

B. The resurrection declared the work accepted

1. Although the work was finished at the cross, the

resurrection is God's public declaration that the work of His Son was fully accepted.

Romans 4:25

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

2. When God raised Christ from the dead, He was declaring that the sacrifice was accepted, justice was satisfied, and sin had been dealt with.

➤ I came across this statement and thought it was very fitting: The resurrection is Heaven's "Amen" to Christ's "It is finished" on the cross.

C. The resurrection proved death was defeated

Acts 2:24

²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Death can hold sinners because of the curse, but it could not hold the sinless Savior once redemption was accomplished.

D. The resurrection secures our justification

Romans 4:25

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Because Jesus rose from the dead and is alive forevermore, our sins are truly forgiven, our standing before God is settled, and our salvation is secure.

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

IV. THE CONQUEST OF DEATH

Since redemption has been accomplished and confirmed, then the great enemy (death) that entered through Adam no longer reigns. In other words, death has met its Conqueror.

A. Death was a real enemy that entered because of sin

We studied this in the earlier message on “The Fall.”

Romans 5:12

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

1 Corinthians 15:26

²⁶ The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed is death.

B. Christ entered death

As we saw in our last message in this series, Jesus entered death fully. When He rose again, He showed that He had passed through death and came out victorious.

2 Timothy 1:10

¹⁰ But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

The word “abolished” in this verse doesn’t mean death no longer exists — it means its power has been broken.

C. Death no longer has dominion over Christ

This is absolute: death cannot claim Him again; cannot touch Him again; has no authority over Him.

Romans 6:9

⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

D. And death no longer has the final word for the believer (vs. 55)

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

E. Death will ultimately be destroyed (vs. 26)

Revelation 21:4

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The empty tomb does not simply tell us that Jesus lives — it tells us that death has been defeated, and that all who are in Christ will share in His victory.

Conclusion:

Everything we believe, everything we hold dear about our faith, rests on one unchanging truth: "He rose again..."

And, as we saw this morning, because He rose:

- The Scriptures are fulfilled
- The payment for sins is confirmed
- Redemption is accepted
- And death is defeated

The resurrection tells us, and the world, that the debt of sin has been paid and the power of death has been broken.

The great truth of the resurrection, however, is something

that demands a response from us — acceptance of rejection.

So, everything comes back to what we have seen throughout this series:

- In Adam, death reigns
- In Christ, life is given

The question that has been asked in several ways over the past few weeks is: Are you still in Adam... or are you in Christ?

The One who conquered death now offers life.

Romans 10:9

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

That means your sins can be forgiven; your guilt can be removed; your standing before God can be made right by coming to Christ in repentance and faith; and your eternity can be secured.

Because He lives, we can live also.